

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
January 2023



Loren Bradford Spriggs, Jr.
January 27, 1954 ~ November 17, 2022

Loren was a retired electrician who worked for Southern Pacific/Union Pacific for a total of 43 years. While working for Southern Pacific, he met and married his wife of thirty-five years, Paula Spriggs.

Loren was involved and very supportive in all activities with his children as they were growing up. He served as president of Windcrest Little League, and he and Paula played softball on several leagues. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting, and riding his Harley with his buddies. Loren was a jack-of-all trades. There was nothing he could not do, from working on all the family vehicles and keeping up the yard with his green thumb.

Loren followed his father's footsteps, serving in the United States Army. He was a member of the American Legion post 667, "Missing Man Post" in Universal City.

He was a loving husband and caring father, grandfather, brother, and friend to many. He is survived by his wife, Paula; four children, Leah Spriggs, Marrison and son-in-law Ryan Harvey, Bradford and daughter-in-law Valerie Spriggs, and Trini Spriggs; six grandchildren; sister Janet and brother-in-law Russ Nelson; brother Kevin and sister-in-law Robin; and several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father Loren Spriggs Sr and his mother Evelyn Knighton, and two sons, Matthew and Adam Spriggs.

I wish to recognize our correspondents for 2022. They are Bill Loomis, Bill Neill, Bob Paulson, the late Dan Hicks, Gary Greblo, Jeff Root, Jim Liddell, Joe Chidgey, Jon Hurst, Joseph Moreaux, Kevin Kelly, Larry Cook, Mike Dickerson, Norma Morris, Paul Gotthardt, Pete Baumhefner, Roger Staub, Stuart Schroeder, Virginia Rodriguez, and William Thibodeaux. Thanks to each of you for your contributions!



Kalithea (Connie) J. Timberlake
June 10, 1928 ~ December 5, 2022

Kalithea (Connie) J. Timberlake, who lived in Sonoma County, California, was born in Chicago, Illinois to Themistoklis and Julia Jouthas. She married Charles (Tim) Timberlake in 1947, and they had three children.

A member of the Church of the Incarnation since 1965, Connie had worked through their Healing Ministries.

She was employed by Southern Pacific for thirty years and after retirement, traveled to Russia, Canada, and Mexico.

Connie was an artist, specializing in plein air oil painting.

Kalitheia J. Timberlake is survived by her three children and five grandchildren.



Lloyd G. Simpson
September 19, 1936 ~
October 10, 2002

Lloyd died in Kingwood, Texas area on October 10, 2022 after several years of progressive dementia. He grew in up in Brookings, Oregon, which is in a rural area of the state.

After attending Oakland City College, he graduated from San Jose State College, earning a degree in business and industrial management.

While attending college, Lloyd was employed by Southern Pacific and worked as a brakeman and conductor. In 1965, he entered Southern Pacific's management training program and before he finished the program, he held an appointment as acting assistant trainmaster at Fontana, California. Upon completion of the program in 1966, he elected to be assigned to the operating department and was appointed acting assistant trainmaster at Tucson, Arizona. Thereafter, in rapid succession, Lloyd was appointed assistant trainmaster or trainmaster at Stockton, Sacramento, Roseville, and Fresno, California. Between 1966 and 1967, he was temporarily assigned as assistant superintendent of the operation, planning, and control department in San Francisco.

Subsequently, Lloyd was appointed assistant superintendent and then superintendent of the Sacramento Division. After that, he served as assistant general manager and general manager on Southern Pacific's Western Lines and then became general manager of Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines. He completed his Southern Pacific career as vice president of transportation.

During his career, he and his family moved 18 times. At one point, he was a trainman, college

student, working overtime on assignment to road switcher based at Mulford, California, and supporting a family with two young daughters. After retirement, he and his wife, Lynne Ann retired to Kingwood.

Editor's note: This memorial was written by Gary Greblo, a longtime friend of Lloyd and Lynne Ann Simpson.



Norman LaMar Sevy
August 18, 1929 ~ December 7,
2022

Our loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, who lived in Ogden, Utah, peacefully returned home to his eternal sweetheart Wednesday morning. Norm was in good health and had spent Tuesday singing and playing cards with his sisters and a son.

Norman LaMar Sevy was born in Ogden to LaMar Cooper and Lucy May Huff Sevy. At age 11, Norm's mother passed away and he quickly learned to be a protector of his sister Mavis and very independent. He spent a lot of time with his aunt, Bonnie Whitelock, and would soon be "adopted" into the Whitelock family where he gained six more cousin/siblings. It was through the Whitelocks that Norm met his wife, Beth Eleen Seely. He graduated from Weber High in the class of 1947.

On May 14, 1948, Norm persuaded Beth to marry him. They were later sealed in the Logan Temple for all time and eternity. There are many amazing stories (which Norm loved to tell) of the struggles, adventures, and joys that he experienced in his 93 years. To his grand, great-grand, and great-great-grandchildren, these stories have always fascinated and entertained to their delight. Norm and Beth were married for 67 years and blessed with five children.

Southern Pacific is where Norm worked most of his adult life. Starting at the bottom as a clerk (Montello, Nevada) and retiring as a conductor (Ogden). Besides "railroading" and spending time with family, he loved to play cards,

especially Bridge, Pinochle, and Pangini, work in his garden, fish at "The Lake", desert hunt for old bottles, restore his historic home on 25th Street, play the guitar, and paint Meso-American art.

Norman is survived by six children, 19 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Beth; son David; sister Mavis and brother Jay Lynn; cousin/siblings Bonnie Rae, Barbara, and Ronnie; two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Editor's request: When changing email addresses, please send your new address to billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org.



Jimmy Howard Wyatt
September 26, 1942 ~
December 11, 2022

Jimmy Howard Wyatt, 80, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, passed away at home December 11, 2022. He was born September 26, 1942, in Pine Bluff to the late Edward Lee and Thelma Davis Wyatt.

He married the love of his life, Joyce Ann Spadoni, on November 22, 1967, and has one daughter, Beth Ann Wyatt Harris, of Bella Vista. He received his education at Linwood Schools and went on to attend Pine Bluff High School, where he graduated in 1961. He went on to attend the University of Arkansas at Monticello for two years to study drafting. He also served in the Army National Guard.

Jimmy was one of the hardest workers you would ever meet. He worked his way through high school as a bus driver and through college by tending cows. He was a lifetime farmer, growing wheat and soybeans on his family farm and several other properties totaling almost

1,000 acres. He worked this land mostly on his own but was often joined by his brother Jessie Wyvern Wyatt. While farming, he also worked for the Cotton Belt/Union Pacific for nearly forty years.

He was a man of few words, incredibly inventive, caring, and a devoted husband and father.

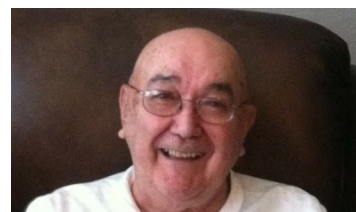
He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, his brother Edward Lee Wyatt, his brother Jessie Wyvern Wyatt, and his sister Norma Jean Estelle Thompson. Survivors include his daughter, his sister Nina Mae Heard of Dumas, Arkansas and many nieces and nephews.

Garrett Paul Calderon
May 6, 1949 ~ December 9, 2022

Garrett was born to Julian and Patricia Calderon in Bakersfield, California. He graduated from Foothill High School in Bakersfield and attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in aeronautical engineering. Before graduating, he realized he'd be happier working outdoors.

He worked for the United States Forest Service fighting fires and later for Southern Pacific as a locomotive engineer for more than 40 years. Living in El Paso, Texas, he was married to Estella Levi and divorced after 15 years, with no children.

He made many friends and attended the same church for 10 years. He enjoyed shooting guns, making model airplanes, and living with his three cats. He was predeceased by his mother, father, and sister Gloria, and is survived by brothers Randy and Mark.



Hubert Lee
Roger October
15, 1933 ~
November 29,
2022

Hubert Lee Roger, 89, of Parker, Colorado, passed away

peacefully at his home with family at his side on November 29, 2022.

He was born October 15, 1933 in Scott, Louisiana. During the Korean War, he proudly served as a company clerk and infantryman. He graduated from Sul Ross University in Alpine, Texas with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He was an avid rancher while living in West Texas. He spent 42 years with Southern Pacific as a clerk telegrapher and train dispatcher. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. After his retirement he continued to grow his passion for farming.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years Grace (Thibodeaux); sons Hugh (Paula) of Parker, Colorado, and the late Hal Roger; two grandchildren, Mac Roger and Jen Shaffer; and one great grandchild, Henry.

Hubert was preceded in death by his parents Aristide and Lydia (Sonnier), one brother Linden, and his beloved son Hal.



**Winston Franklin
"Frank" Mayhew
April 12, 1943 ~
December 2, 2022**

Winston Franklin "Frank" Mayhew, 80, of Denton, Texas, passed away on December 2, 2022.

He was born on April 12, 1942, in Mayflower, Arkansas, to Pete N. and Delcia Stephens Mayhew. He served four years in the US Navy as a Navy corpsman with the 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam.

Frank married Shelby Sue Lea on September 6, 1963, in Sparkman, Arkansas.

He received his bachelor's degree from Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, Arkansas. He was a teacher and football coach in Marshall, Texas, and then spent twenty-eight years working in the railroad industry. In 2001,

he earned a master's degree from Texas Woman's University. He then taught at college level, and subsequently became a professor of history at Collin College in McKinney, Texas, where he retired after ten years.

Frank is survived by his wife of 59 years, Shelby Lea Mayhew; sons Pete F. and Paul E. Mayhew; granddaughter Lauren Curfman; brother James T. Mayhew; sister-in-law Kathy Mayhew; and sister Winnie Hunter.

Besides his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother Gary Mayhew.

Editor's note: Jim Liddell said, "Frank worked for Southern Pacific and the Cotton Belt, heading up the initial EDI group at Houston, transferring to the Southern Pacific sales department in Atlanta, and then was employed by Norfolk Southern in Dallas. He took an early retirement from Norfolk Southern, earned a master's degree, and became a history professor."



**Thomas Allen Kerby
December 18, 1942 ~
December 8, 2022**

Tom was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on December 18, 1942, and passed away in Tucson Arizona on December 8, 2022.

Tom was a locomotive engineer for the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific from 1959 to 2007. He was the go-to person for railroad history in Arizona. He never lost that childhood desire to run trains. Early on in his career, it was hard to maintain year-round work in Tucson, so he borrowed out and worked in California, Oregon, and Nevada at different times.

He worked as a steam engine fireman on the White Mountain Scenic Railroad in McNary, Arizona. In retirement, he was involved in many activities and loved to talk to others about his career and knowledge of the history of railroad companies that operated in Arizona.

Tom also served in the Air National Guard from 1965 to 1975, where he rose to the rank of staff sergeant, and upon completion of his service, he was honorably discharged.

Tom was also an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for many years. He served in many numerous callings and was a member of the Pantano Ward upon his passing.

Tom was so loved by many. He will be sorely missed by us all. His memory will live on in the hearts of everyone.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents Joseph Robert Kerby and Irene Helen Wachter, as well as his Eternal Companion, Joanne Terpening. He is survived by his children, Kelly Kerby, Joseph Kerby, Becky Mellor, Guy Wintersteen, and Troy Wintersteen; nine grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren; and special friend Wendy Pixler of Sandy, Utah.

Editor's note: Jon Hurst advises, "Tom is part of a multi-generational railroad family. His father was a Tucson-based locomotive engineer as is his son, Joe. Both Tom and Joe were also company officers for a time."



Harold A. Lapp
July 28, 1930 ~ December 6, 2022

Harold A. Lapp, 92, of Cuero, Texas passed away December 6, 2022. Harold was born in Cuero on July 28, 1930 to the late Robin H. and Clara Cook Lapp. He was baptized at First Baptist Church, Cuero when he was 19 years old and was a lifelong member. Harold was a veteran of the United States Navy. He married Phyllis Rogge on July 28, 1956 at the Lutheran Church, Nordheim, Texas. Harold worked for Southern Pacific and retired after 37 years of service.

Harold is survived by his wife of 66 years, Phyllis, of Cuero; sons, Keith E. Lapp, Tracey A. Lapp (Pat), and Clay R. Lapp, all of Cuero;

grandchildren, Michael Lapp (Casey), Stephanie Haverda (Benjamin), Katy Lapp Smith (Anthony), Natalie Henry (Jody), Benjamin Lapp (Kimberly), Amanda Nguyen (Duy), Blake Jackson (Jillie), and Matthew Jackson (Lauren); and great-grandchildren, Brantley and Taylor Lapp, Leighton, Jordyn, and Logan Nguyen, Ayden, Stormy, and Dixie Smith, Mason and Lincoln Lapp, and Koltyn and Hadley Haverda.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Neal R. Lapp; sisters, Faye Fischer, Ruth Steen, and Jane Adams; and brother, Roy Lapp.

Editor's note: Paul Gotthardt says, "He was an A&WE supervisor at Southern Pacific's San Antonio East Yard and he was a great guy. He was admired and liked by many of the men who worked for him."

Please feel free to explore the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center's website: <https://www.splives.org/>. It is the History Center's goal to keep the site updated, particularly the slide show on the Home page. If you believe any content is inaccurate, missing, or requires expansion, or if you have Southern Pacific-related photos, videos, or documents for posting on website, send your comments or content to splives@splives.org.

Wyman Johe
July 5, 1929 - December 14, 2022

Wyman Johe, father of Brenda, Pat Lue (Mike), Brian, Ken and grandchildren Philip Lue, Marisa Lue, (Kevin Tse) and Bryce Johe passed away December 14, 2022 at the age of 93.

He is also survived by brother, Wiley Johe (Helen), Beverly Johe, sister-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. Wyman was preceded in death by his loving wife, Virginia of many years. He was born in San Jose to parents Allen Johe Wong and Lee Gum Ying. His siblings

preceding him in death include Constance Chan (Elliot), Corrine Leon (Larry), Wayland, and William Johe (Loretta).

Wyman grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown attended Galileo High School, City College of San Francisco, and University of California at Berkeley. He worked for Southern Pacific for 41 years, mainly as the chief draftsman of the engineering department and manager of rules and specifications. He moved his family to the Sunset District of San Francisco 59 years ago. His passions included spending time with his wife, especially after retirement, the 49ers, trips to Las Vegas, concerts, In-N-Out Burger, and family get-togethers.

Editor's note: Wyman had a tremendous work ethic and was always calm and collected. I remember asking him to work on a rush project for a set of colored maps at 4:50 p.m. on a Friday. I then watched him as redesigned the drawing I had sketched out in pencil, made copies with a blue print machine, and then applied four different colors free style on twelve copies of the map, all in less than one hour.

Edmund Julius Von Nordeck
March 12, 1933 - December 6, 2022

Ed was born in El Centro, California to George and Selma Von Nordeck. The family soon moved to Corona, California and purchased a pool hall called Doc's Place, which they operated until the late 1960s. Ed became interested in the railroad during his school age years and would spend hours at the Corona Santa Fe station getting educated in railroading. Out of high school, his plans were to work for the Santa Fe Railroad, but due to back problems, that didn't happen. He was hired by the Southern Pacific in the Los Angeles reservation office at the age of 19 because of his knowledge and enthusiasm of passenger rail trains. Life changed in 1953 when Uncle Sam called and required 24 months of service. His basic training was at Camp San Luis Obispo, California; followed by 18 months in Berlin, Germany during the Korean War. He returned to civilian life working for Southern Pacific Railroad in Los Angeles. In 1957, he met

a new employee, Mary Lee, who later became his wife on December 4, 1958. The marriage came with a readymade family, as Mary Lee had a three year old daughter, Lori.

In 1963, Ed left his job with Southern Pacific and the family moved to Perris, California to become resident managers of the Orange Empire Trolley Museum. He ran special rail tours from Los Angeles to the Ramona Outdoor Play in Hemet as fund raisers for the museum. In 1965, "Let's Travel Tours" was started by Ed and Mary Lee in order to operate railroad trips traveling throughout the southwest and Mexico. Let's Travel was among the first travel agents to sell Amtrak tickets. They were honored to be part of the "Golden Spike Society" for 20 years for their large volume of sales. The passing of Ed is a huge loss for the rail passenger community, for those who were privileged to know him as a friend, and for everyone who values the development and improvement of the nation's intercity and commuter trains.

Ed is survived by his wife Mary Lee, daughter and son-in-law Lori and Dane Clarke and granddaughter Heather Clarke.

Editor's note: Jeff Root advises, "He was a well-known and respected southern California railfan and photographer. A number of his photos have appeared on trainorders.com."